10:Viski E-4.5 (no date) 1932 EC1 Hungary EC1

The end of life

761 We are all in God's hands: our time will be up one day, our candle burnt out, our star have vanished from the sky, just as it is set out in the Book of Fate... When the Great Reaper comes, the soul flies away, and the body starts on its last journey.

«There is no medecine against death,
Neither in the Pharmacy, nor else where...»

is one of the ways in which popular songs attempt to 763 console the mourners. When the hour of death has struck, man is drawn to the earth, he longs for it as though contact with it would deliver him from every evil, relieve him from his suffering, ease his last breath... The sick person is taken off the bed, and laid on the floor on a mat covered with a sheet. There he wrestles with death, [825] until his soul is liberated, and leaves his body. An owl, herald of death, hoots on the chimney: this bird of mourning is supposed to fly away following the dead person's soul, and it comes back with any new-born's soul. Its hoots are a ghostly presage, almost a signpost of the departing soul. People who hear it shudder, yet it is forbidden to cry in the presence of a dieing person, as tears might keep him back, making his departure more difficult; he might not be able to die because his soul would find it too hard to part with life.

741 It is not wise to play with death: the child must not 734 lie on his tummy, the owl must be driven away from the chimney; in our dream we must not have our teeth pulled out, nor must we sing funeral hymns without good reason, nor seat thirteen people at one table...